

REMARKS

New claim 89 has been added to properly claim a method for absorbing a liquid using the absorbent of the present invention. Claims 65-73 have been amended to depend from new claim 89. It is submitted that these amendments do not constitute new matter, and their entry is requested.

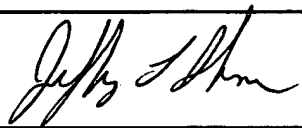
In the Office Action mailed 2 October 2003, the Examiner required an election of species between 22 different species. This election of species requirement is traversed with respect to the manner set forth by the Examiner.

Applicants note that the present invention is directed to an absorbent, a method of making the absorbent and a method of using the absorbent. The absorbent comprises three components: a fibrous cellulose (or wood) component, a particulate cellulose (wood) component and a binding agent. Each of these components consist of several species. For example, the fibrous cellulose (or wood) component may be wood fibers, fiber pile, chip wash solids, fiber waste or wood fiber fines. The particulate cellulose (wood) component may be sawdust, wood flour, wood dust or sander fines. The binding agent may be light weight oil, light weight petroleum oil, mineral seal oil, vegetable oil, soybean oil, a soap product or a detergent.

Applicants believe that the election requirement more properly should have required an election of species for each one of these components so that a complete absorbent could be searched. In the context of this belief, Applicants elect an absorbent comprising fiber waste, sander fines and light weight oil. Claims 1, 5, 10, 11, 20-23, 25-28, 30, 31, 35, 40, 42, 49-52, 53-56, 58-64 and 89 read on this election.

If, however, the Examiner intended to search all particulate cellulose (wood) components and binding agents upon the election of a species of a fibrous cellulose (wood) component, then Applicants elect fiber waste as the fibrous cellulose component. Claims 1, 5, 7-18, 20-23, 25-28, 30, 31, 35, 37-47, 49-52, 53-56, 58-64 and 89 read on this election.

If the Examiner has any questions concerning this election, she is invited to telephone the undersigned.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,					
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Attachment: Marked-Up Copy of Amendments

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Marked-Up Copy of Amended Claims

65 (amended). The method of claim [64] 89, [further comprising the step of applying said absorbent to and absorbing] wherein said liquid is petroleum.

66 (amended). The method of claim [64] 89, [further comprising the step of applying said absorbent to and absorbing] wherein said liquid is petroleum derivatives.

67 (amended). The method of claim [64] 89, [further comprising the step of applying said absorbent to and absorbing] wherein said liquid is oil.

68 (amended). The method of claim [64] 89, [further comprising the step of applying said absorbent to and absorbing] wherein said liquid is hydraulic oil.

69 (amended). The method of claim [64] 89, [further comprising the step of applying said absorbent to and absorbing] wherein said liquid is grease.

70 (amended). The method of claim [64] 89, [further comprising the step of applying said absorbent to and absorbing] wherein said liquid is gasoline.

71 (amended). The method of claim [64] 89, [further comprising the step of applying said absorbent to and absorbing] wherein said liquid is diesel.

72 (amended). The method of claim [64] 89, [further comprising the step of applying said absorbent to and absorbing] wherein said liquid is anit-freeze.

73 (amended). The method of claim [64] 89, [further comprising the step of applying said absorbent to and absorbing] wherein said liquid is solvent.